

To: Cafasso, Sarah[Cafasso.Sarah@epa.gov]
From: Sanchez, Yolanda
Sent: Tue 8/11/2015 3:51:51 PM
Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

May be of interest....

From: Deschambault, Lynda
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 7:55 AM
To: Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Sanchez, Yolanda; Hillenbrand, John
Cc: Shaffer, Caleb
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

FYI links to a series of articles of the Colorado Mine Spill

Washington Post: "water has a habit of finding its way downhill, and plugging one mine often means it simply leaks from others, so the agency had to excavate and stabilize the Gold King mine upstream. That's what they were up to on Aug. 5, when the loose material holding the mine together finally gave way. The water that had accumulated in the mine's long-abandoned tunnels went tumbling into Cement Creek. "It was known that there was a pool of water back in the mine, and EPA had a plan to remove that water and treat it, you know, slowly," Peter Butler, who serves as a co-coordinator of the stakeholders group, told KUNC. "But things didn't go quite the way they planned and there was a lot more water in there than they thought, and it just kind of burst out of the mine."

NY Times: "For years, the Gold King has leaked toxic water at a rate of 50 to 250 gallons a minute. The agency had planned to find the source of the leak in the hope of one day stanching it. Instead, as workers used a backhoe to hack at loose material, a surprise deluge of orange water ripped through, spilling into Cement Creek and flowing into the Animas"

From: Mahmud, Shahid

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 6:32 AM

Importance: High

I am including links to a series of articles of the Colorado Mine Spill that occurred last week. I have received press inquiries and messages from other regions on this incident and we need to spend a good portion of our call tomorrow to come up with a game plan to respond to press inquiries and community concerns at mining sites located in other regions. Jim Woolford, my office director, is also asking questions on whether there is a need for additional guidance or procedures so that the risk of this type of event is minimized or eliminated in the future. I propose we spend the first hour of our call tomorrow talking about this item and there may be a need to have a subgroup formed to coordinate responses and lessons learned type information in the near future. Thanks!

<http://insideepa.com/node/183864>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/energy-environment/officials-downstream-from-colorado-mine-spill-demand-answers/2015/08/11/a13ace08-3ff9-11e5-b2c4-af4c6183b8b4_story.html

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/08/10/what-the-epa-was-doing-when-it-sent-yellow-sludge-spilling-into-a-colorado-creek/>

<http://nyti.ms/1Iyqa2O>

Shahid Mahmud

Team Leader, EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team

703-603-8789

mahmud.shahid@epa.gov

From: Deschambault, Lynda
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 4:07 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid
Cc: Hillenbrand, John; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Sanchez, Yolanda
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Hello

I work on the abandoned Leviathan Mine site, and I wasn't on any of the Mining calls or discussions about this.

But I had a community member ask me today what happened at this Colorado Mine spill and what I knew ...and if this could occur at Leviathan.

So in addition to what you mention here, I was wondering what the fuller picture is on what happened? CNN reports:

"a federal cleanup crew accidentally released mine waste into the water" and " According to the EPA, the spill occurred when one of its teams was using heavy equipment to enter the Gold King Mine, a suspended mine near Durango. Instead of entering the mine and beginning the process of pumping and treating the contaminated water inside as planned, the team accidentally caused it to flow into the nearby Animas River"

I'd appreciate a full press release/summary!

Best Regards,

Lynda Deschambault

Environmental Scientist

USEPA Region 09

(415) 947-4183

From: Mahmud, Shahid

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 1:37 PM

To: Adams, Bill; Biggs, Kirby; Carr, Lofton; Casanova, Rafael; Doolan, Mark; Gunter, Jason; Hanley, Jim; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hoogerheide, Roger; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michael; Marcy, Ken; Moreen, Ed; Price, Lisa; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Sparks, Sara; Teichert, Candice; Tomten, Dave; Adams, Bill; Autrey, Brad; Aycock, Jim; Baumgarten, Gary; Bless, Diana; Butler, Barbara; Carr, Lofton; Chadwick, Dan; Cherepy, Andrea; Conway, Bette; Cozza, Daniel; Cruz, Francisco; Desai, Sheila; Deschambault, Lynda; Devito, Steve; DiCosmo, Nefertiti; Dixon, Douglas; Doolan, Mark; Forren, John; Forrest, Sabrina; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Godsey, Cindi; Goodrick, John; Grandinetti, Cami; Hanley, Jim; Hardy, Michael; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hood, Lynne; Housman, Van; Hudiburgh, Gary; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Jessop, Carter; Byrne, Jim; Johnson, Brent; Long, Larry; Lavaty, Ann; Lazorchak, Jim; Lensink, Andy; Lesser, Ben; Ellis, Lisa; Low, Seth; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michele; Manoyan, Simon; Marcy, Ken; Mayer, Kevin; Miller, Anna; Egidi, Philip; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Roy, Stephen; Russell, Carol; Teichert, Candice; Teitelbaum, Daniel; Tiago, Joseph; Tomten, Dave; Watt, Jamey; Wilkening, Matt

Subject: Fw: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Importance: High

Joy,

Thanks and I send our concerns to Melissa who is coordinating the response from Superfund to OSWER.

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Mahmud, Shahid
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 4:33 PM
To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Cc: Wells, Suzanne; Gartner, Lois
Subject: Fw: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa,

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Jenkins, Joy
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid; Adams, Bill; Biggs, Kirby; Carr, Lofton; Casanova, Rafael; Doolan, Mark; Gunter, Jason; Hanley, Jim; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hoogerheide, Roger; Jackson, Brad; Mahoney, Michael; Marcy, Ken; Moreen, Ed; Price, Lisa; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Sparks, Sara; Teichert, Candice; Tomten, Dave; Adams, Bill; Autrey, Brad; Aycock, Jim; Baumgarten, Gary; Bless, Diana; Butler, Barbara; Carr, Lofton; Chadwick, Dan; Cherepy, Andrea; Conway, Bette; Cozza, Daniel; Cruz, Francisco; Desai, Sheila; Deschambault, Lynda; Devito, Steve; DiCosmo, Nefertiti; Dixon, Douglas; Doolan, Mark; Forren, John; Forrest, Sabrina; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Godsey, Cindi; Goodrick, John;

Grandinetti, Cami; Hanley, Jim; Hardy, Michael; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hood, Lynne; Housman, Van; Hudiburgh, Gary; Jackson, Brad; Jessop, Carter; Byrne, Jim; Johnson, Brent; Long, Larry; Lavaty, Ann; Lazorchak, Jim; Lensink, Andy; Lesser, Ben; Ellis, Lisa; Low, Seth; Mahoney, Michele; Manoyan, Simon; Marcy, Ken; Mayer, Kevin; Miller, Anna; Egidi, Philip; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Roy, Stephen; Russell, Carol; Teichert, Candice; Teitelbaum, Daniel; Tiago, Joseph; Tomten, Dave; Watt, Jamey; Wilkening, Matt

Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Shahid –

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

- Joy

Joy Jenkins

Remedial Project Manager

EPA Region 8

Phone: 303-312-6873

Travel/remote work phone: 720-951-0793

From: Mahmud, Shahid

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 1:36 PM

To: Adams, Bill; Biggs, Kirby; Carr, Loftin; Casanova, Rafael; Doolan, Mark; Gunter, Jason; Hanley, Jim; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hoogerheide, Roger; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michael; Marcy, Ken; Moreen, Ed; Price, Lisa; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Sparks, Sara; Teichert, Candice; Tomten,

Dave; Adams, Bill; Autrey, Brad; Aycock, Jim; Baumgarten, Gary; Bless, Diana; Butler, Barbara; Carr, Lofton; Chadwick, Dan; Cherepy, Andrea; Conway, Bette; Cozza, Daniel; Cruz, Francisco; Desai, Sheila; Deschambault, Lynda; Devito, Steve; DiCosmo, Nefertiti; Dixon, Douglas; Doolan, Mark; Forren, John; Forrest, Sabrina; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Godsey, Cindi; Goodrick, John; Grandinetti, Cami; Hanley, Jim; Hardy, Michael; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hood, Lynne; Housman, Van; Hudiburgh, Gary; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Jessop, Carter; Byrne, Jim; Johnson, Brent; Long, Larry; Lavaty, Ann; Lazorchak, Jim; Lensink, Andy; Lesser, Ben; Ellis, Lisa; Low, Seth; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michele; Manoyan, Simon; Marcy, Ken; Mayer, Kevin; Miller, Anna; Egidi, Philip; Prograss, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Roy, Stephen; Russell, Carol; Teichert, Candice; Teitelbaum, Daniel; Tiago, Joseph; Tomten, Dave; Watt, Jamey; Wilkening, Matt

Subject: Fw: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Importance: High

This is FYI. Please see draft response that will be sent to the OSWER outreach office to forward to reporter. I am sure this is just a start on the inquiries we will be getting over the next few days/weeks. Thanks everyone for your help.

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:50 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid; Wells, Suzanne
Cc: Gartner, Lois
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Is everyone ok for me to send this response to OSWER Comms and OPA with cc: to Jeremy Ames?

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Melissa Greer Dreyfus

Environmental Health Scientist

Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: 703-603-8792

email: dreyfus.melissa@epa.gov

From: Mahmud, Shahid

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:45 PM

To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.; Wells, Suzanne

Cc: Gartner, Lois

Subject: Re: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa,

You are correct in that EPA routinely monitors hardrock mine sites that are listed on the NPL. I am not sure to the extent of our involvement at non-NPL sites.

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:41 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid; Wells, Suzanne
Cc: Gartner, Lois
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Thank you, Shahid!

Lois and Suzanne,

I haven't send an email to Jeremy in ORCR yet. Do you think that is still necessary? If not, I propose we send the following as our response and I can cc: Jeremy. Does the response go to just Nancy or to George and Julia too? Shahid, does this look ok to you? Do we want to say anything about EPA monitoring abandoned mines with regards to those listed on the NPL?

Thanks!

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Melissa Greer Dreyfus

Environmental Health Scientist

Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: 703-603-8792

email: dreyfus.melissa@epa.gov

From: Mahmud, Shahid

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:34 PM

To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.; Wells, Suzanne

Cc: Gartner, Lois

Subject: Re: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa,

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:52 PM

To: Wells, Suzanne

Cc: Gartner, Lois; Mahmud, Shahid

Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Thanks, Suzanne. Shahid, if you don't know the answer to the questions regarding mines holding contaminated water, perhaps we can point to which agency holds this authority? The second question seems to pertain specifically to abandoned mines: Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored? Would this response entail some wording on five year reviews?

Melissa Greer Dreyfus

Environmental Health Scientist

Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: 703-603-8792

email: dreyfus.melissa@epa.gov

From: Wells, Suzanne

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:45 PM

To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.

Cc: Gartner, Lois; Mahmud, Shahid

Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa,

I've cc:ed Shahid so he can see this inquiry. I don't know if Shahid knows the answer to this reporter's questions. There might be someone in RCRA or possibly one of the land management agencies who knows the answer.

Suzanne Wells

Chief, Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

(703) 603-8863

(703) 603-9112 (fax)

USEPA/William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building (MC 5204P)

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460



From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:42 PM

To: Wells, Suzanne

Cc: Gartner, Lois

Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Suzanne,

I forwarded this request to Shahid, but should it also go to OEM?

Melissa Greer Dreyfus

Environmental Health Scientist

Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch

Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: 703-603-8792

email: dreyfus.melissa@epa.gov

From: Cohen, Nancy
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Cc: Wells, Suzanne; Gartner, Lois
Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa: I want to follow the correct process on press inquiries related to the Aminos River spill but don't want to lose time either. So here's an inquiry we received from OPA. We may also get it via the EOC.

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Cohen, Nancy
Subject: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill

All, I've sent this inquiry to Region 8 already, but it looks as though OSWER might want to take a look at the first two questions. Please let me know.

If we could get a response by COB Today, the reporter could run the story in tomorrow's paper. Please advise. Thanks, R.

From: Karl Mathiesen
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 7:45 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert
Subject: Guardian media enquiry

Hi Robert,

I'm a journalist with the Guardian writing a piece on the release from the Gold King Mine in Colorado.

I have a few questions on the background of the situation. Please do your best to answer them all.

On the general state of tailings dams and mines. How many such storage facilities are there across the country? How does the EPA monitor the maintenance and condition of mines and dams that are holding contaminated water? Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?

It has been reported that the EPA has been trying to designate the area as a superfund area for some time. When was the idea first floated? Why was it unsuccessful? Does the EPA believe the spill would have occurred regardless of the lack of superfund designation? Would that have changed the way the clean up was undertaken (ie would there have been more money available and therefore less likelihood of a failure?)?

Best,

Karl

--

Karl Mathiesen

London